



STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Broadband plan to significantly advance statewide economic development

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 6, 2016) – The [Indiana Economic Development Corporation](#) (IEDC), the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) and the [Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) (OCRA) released the following statements regarding the state of Indiana's agreement to lease state-owned telecommunications infrastructure to Agile Networks. This deal is expected to significantly improve broadband availability across the state, most notably in rural areas.

Victor Smith, Indiana Secretary of Commerce:

"Whether you're a small company in rural Indiana or a large business in one of the state's urban centers, a strong broadband connection is just as important as the roads, rails, waterways and skies that connect Hoosier businesses to their customers around the world. Through this innovative plan, Hoosiers in underserved areas will have improved access to a key tool for innovating and launching new businesses, which will also help maintain and enhance the quality of life in rural Indiana."

Ted McKinney, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture:

"In order for agriculture to grow and thrive in today's economy, as well as to remain competitive globally, Hoosier farmers and agribusinesses need access to reliable broadband. From collecting real-time data on crop yields to taking full advantage of modern agricultural technologies, connectivity plays an important role in the industry today, so by extending broadband availability in rural parts of the state, this plan is a major step forward for Indiana agriculture."

Bill Konyha, Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs:

"Attracting and retaining talent, economic and employment opportunities are largely dependent upon developing a high quality of place. This plan is a significant step forward, especially for rural Indiana, in providing access to the vital resource that is high-speed internet."

In Case You Missed It:

Governor Mike Pence:

"Indiana is a national leader in partnerships that deliver sound financial returns and long-term benefits to Hoosiers. This agreement, if approved, will put underused assets into full play, enhance Indiana's communication capabilities throughout the state, and fund the state's bicentennial projects."

Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb:

"This agreement will result in much-needed broadband to many rural communities across the state that are currently underserved, helping them develop and amplify the quality of life and quality of place critical to economic investment. Expanded broadband is an important tool for rural communities to attract, retain, and retrain talented Hoosiers and recruit quality employers. I commend Agile Networks for recognizing Indiana's unmatched economic and business climate for their investment."

For additional details on today's announcement, [click here](#).

About IEDC

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) leads the state of Indiana's economic development efforts, helping businesses launch, grow and locate in the state. Governed by a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mike Pence, the IEDC manages many initiatives, including performance-based tax credits, workforce training grants, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, public infrastructure assistance, and talent attraction and retention efforts. For more information about the IEDC, visit www.iedc.in.gov.

About ISDA

[The Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

About OCRA

[The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development.

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